



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

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Maura T. Healey  
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Commissioner

October 1, 2025

The Honorable Ronald Mariano  
Speaker of the House  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Karen Spilka  
Senate President  
Massachusetts Senate  
State House, Room 332  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Christine Barber  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Environment  
and Natural Resources  
State House, Room 167  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Becca Rausch  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Environment  
and Natural Resources  
State House, Room 215  
Boston, MA 02133

The Extended Producer Responsibility Commission was established pursuant to Section 108 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024 (the Act) to recommend to the General Court extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies for the Commonwealth. The Act further provides that the policy recommendations “shall include, but not be limited to: (i) recommendations on specific and other strategies for product and packaging categories including, but not limited to, paint, mattresses, electronics, lithium-ion batteries, plastics and other packaging.”

The Act also provides that

Not later than January 15, 2026, the commission shall issue initial recommendations and related findings to the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on environment and natural resources, the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and the clerks of the senate and house of representatives. The department of environmental protection shall publish said recommendations and related findings on its website.

The Commission has held five meetings to date: on April 14, 2025 (kick off), May 21, 2025 (paint), June 18, 2025 (mattresses), July 16, 2025 (batteries) and September 17, 2025 (electronics). There is one remaining meeting on October 29 (plastics and packaging). Advisory groups have been formed to assist the Commission in evaluating electronics and plastics and packaging.

At the June 18 meeting, the Commission was presented with information relating to EPR approaches for mattresses. At the September 17 meeting, the Commission voted to issue a recommendation for a preferred approach for mattresses in advance of the report to be issued on or before January 15, 2026. This letter contains that recommendation.

## **Background**

The Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection (MassDEP) reports that more than 600,000 mattresses and box springs are discarded annually in Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> On November 1, 2022, Massachusetts added mattresses to its waste disposal bans (310 CMR 19.017), meaning these materials cannot be discarded in the state's landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, or transferred for disposal unless they are contaminated.

While municipal mattress recycling programs have grown considerably since 2016 when MassDEP initiated a municipal grant program to collect and recycle mattresses, 27% of Massachusetts residents live in a community where there is either no municipal mattress collection program or there is no data available on a municipal program<sup>2</sup>. In these municipalities, residents must pay directly for mattress recycling and collection services. Municipal mattress collection and recycling costs, which are paid for by municipalities or by fees paid by residents, are estimated at \$12.4 million annually<sup>3</sup>. Municipal officials have stated that mattress recycling fees can create incentives for illegal dumping, which can increase management costs.

The nonprofit Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) operates recycling programs in states that have enacted mattress extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws: California, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and, most recently, Oregon. The program is funded through a flat-rate fee at the point of sale for consumers—including individuals, hotels, hospitals, and universities—for all mattresses and foundations (box springs), regardless of size or type. Both brick-and-mortar and e-commerce retailers are required to assess the fee at the point of sale.

A statewide EPR program would alleviate costs to municipalities that absorb program costs via their municipal solid waste programs and are burdened with the administrative responsibilities of collection, contracting for recycling, and transportation. A mattress EPR program would provide clear, uniform instructions for residents and bulk users such as hotels, hospitals, and universities on end-of-life options for mattress removal. Yet another benefit is a reduction in illegal dumping, which can occur when mattress disposal options are expensive, unavailable, or unclear.

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Mattress Recycling. Accessed June 27, 2025, from <https://www.mass.gov/guides/mattress-recycling>.

<sup>2</sup> Based on data reported to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection through the 2024 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Survey. Accessed June 10, 2025. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2024-municipal-solid-waste-recycling-survey-responses/download>.

<sup>3</sup> Mattress EPR Background Document, June 10, 2025, Product Stewardship Institute, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2025-06-10-mattress-background-document/download>.

## Extended Producer Responsibility Commission Recommendation

The Commission recommends that the Massachusetts Legislature enact legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility program for mattresses. The Commission recommends the development and implementation of a program that aligns with existing programs to the greatest extent possible.

The Commission acknowledges proposed mattress EPR legislation under consideration before the Massachusetts legislature at the time of this recommendation —H.1023, H.3985, and S.614—but does not endorse any specific bill. H.1023 incorporates some of the elements contained in Oregon’s updated law, which the Commission recommends exploring.

The Commission recommends consideration of the following questions:<sup>4</sup>

1. Should the mattress fee be a flat fee or a variable fee based on size of mattress or cost? Current EPR programs have a flat fee regardless of the size (twin, full, queen, king) or cost of the mattress.
2. Should the disposal cost of mattresses that cannot be collected and recycled through the program be included?
3. Should the fee be collected at the wholesale or retail level? In current mattress EPR programs the fee is collected at the point of retail sale.

If you need additional information or have any questions pertaining to this recommendation, please feel free to contact Courtney Rainey at [Courtney.rainey@mass.gov](mailto:Courtney.rainey@mass.gov).

Sincerely,



John Beling, Chair  
Extended Producer Responsibility  
Commission

cc: EPR Commission Members

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<sup>4</sup> The International Sleep Products Association provided comments on each of these questions, which can be found in the appendix.